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ABSTRACT

This brief summarizes data from Census 2000 on the American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) population and discusses its distribution at national, regional, and state levels. This information is intended for all levels of government to use in implementing and evaluating programs related to education, employment, health care, job training, civil rights, and housing. On April 1, 2000, 4.1 million persons--1.5 percent of the U.S. population--reported their race as AI/AN. This number included 2.5 million reporting AI/AN only and 1.6 million reporting AI/AN in combination with another race. Of all respondents who reported AI/AN, 43 percent lived in the West and 31 percent lived in the South. About 25 percent lived in California and Oklahoma combined. At 19 percent, Alaska had the highest proportion of AI/AN population, followed by Oklahoma (11 percent) and New Mexico (10 percent). American Indians and Alaska Natives were the majority of the population in 26 counties, located in eight states of the West and Midwest. Locations of clusters of counties with high AI/AN proportions are described. Among large cities, the largest AI/AN populations were found in New York and Los Angeles, which together accounted for 3.4 percent of the total AI/AN population. American Indian tribal groupings with 100,000 or more people were Cherokee, Navajo, Latin American Indian, Choctaw, Sioux, and Chippewa. Alaska Native tribal responses and patterns of mixed-tribal responses are also discussed. (Contains 11 data tables and figures.) (SV)

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The American Indian and Alaska Native Population: 2000

Census 2000 Brief

Issued February 2002

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Census 2000 showed that the United States population was 281.4 million on April 1, 2000. Of the total, 4.1 million, or 1.5 percent, reported[1] American Indian and Alaska Native. This number included 2.5 million people, or 0.9 percent, who reported only American Indian and Alaska Native in addition to 1.6 million people, or 0.6 percent, who reported American Indian and Alaska Native as well as one or more other races. The term American Indian is often used in the text of this report to refer to the American Indian and Alaska Native population, while American Indian and Alaska Native is used in the text tables and graphs. Census 2000 asked separate questions on race and Hispanic or Latino origin. Hispanics who reported their race as American Indian and Alaska Native, either alone or in combination with one or more races, are included in the number of American Indians.

Figure 1.
Reproduction of the Question on Race From Census 2000

6. **What is this person's race?** ***Mark*** ☒ ***one or more races*** *to indicate what this person considers himself/herself to be.*

- ☐ White
- ☐ Black, African Am., or Negro
- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native — *Print name of enrolled or principal tribe.* 7
- ☐ Asian Indian
- ☐ Japanese
- ☐ Native Hawaiian
- ☐ Chinese
- ☐ Korean
- ☐ Guamanian or Chamorro
- ☐ Filipino
- ☐ Vietnamese
- ☐ Samoan
- ☐ Other Asian — *Print race.* 7
- ☐ Other Pacific Islander — *Print race.* 7
- ☐ Some other race — *Print race.* 7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 questionnaire.

This report, part of a series that analyzes population and housing data collected from Census 2000, provides a portrait of the American Indian population in the United States and discusses its distribution at both the national and subnational levels. It begins by discussing the characteristics of the total American Indian population and then focuses on selected tribal groupings,[2] for example, Navajo, Cherokee, or Eskimo. The report is based on data from the Census 2000 Summary File 1.[3] The text of this report discusses data for the United States, including the 50 states and the District of Columbia.[4]

[1] In this report, the term "reported" is used to refer to the answers provided by respondents, as well as responses assigned during the editing and imputation processes.

[2] Tribal grouping refers to the combining of individual American Indian tribes, such as Alamo Navajo, Tohajiileehee Navajo, and Ramah Navajo into the general Navajo tribe, or the combining of individual Alaska Native tribes such as American Eskimo, Eskimo and Greenland Eskimo into the general Eskimo tribe.

[3] Data from the Census 2000 Summary File 1 were released on a state-by-state basis during the summer of 2001.

[4] Data for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are shown in Table 2 and Figure 3.

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United States Census 2000

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The term "American Indian and Alaska Native" refers to people having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintain tribal affiliation or community attachment. It includes people who reported "American Indian and Alaska Native" or wrote in their principal or enrolled tribe.

Data on race have been collected since the first U.S. decennial census in 1790. American Indians were first enumerated as a separate group in the 1860 census. The 1890 census was the first to count American Indians throughout the country. Prior to 1890, enumeration of American Indians was limited to those living in the general population of the various states; American Indians in American Indian Territory and on American Indian reservations were not included.

Alaska Natives, in Alaska, have been counted since 1880, but until 1940, they were generally reported in the "American Indian" racial category. They were enumerated separately (as Eskimo and Aleut) in 1940 in Alaska. In the 1970 census, separate response categories were used to collect data on the Eskimo and Aleut population only in Alaska.

The 1980 census was the first in which data were collected separately for Eskimos and Aleuts in all states. The 1990 census used three separate response categories to collect data on the American Indian and Alaska Native population.

Census 2000 used a combined "American Indian or Alaska Native" response category to collect data on both the American Indian and Alaska Native population. Also, respondents were asked to provide the name of their enrolled or principal tribes. Previous decennial censuses collected data on both American Indian and Alaska Native tribes. However, Census 2000 provides more extensive data for tribes than ever before.

The question on race was changed for Census 2000.

All U.S. censuses have obtained information on race for every individual and for the past several censuses, the responses reflect self-identification. For Census 2000, however, respondents were asked to report *one or more* races they considered themselves and other members of their households to be.[5]

Because of these changes, the Census 2000 data on race are not directly comparable with data from the 1990 census or earlier censuses. Caution must be used when interpreting changes in the racial composition of the United States population over time.

The Census 2000 question on race included 15 separate response categories and 3 areas where respondents could write in a more specific race (see Figure 1). For some purposes, including this report, the response categories and write-in answers were combined to create the five standard Office of Management and Budget race categories, plus the Census Bureau category of "Some other race." The six race categories include:

- White;
- Black or African American;
- American Indian and Alaska Native;
- Asian;
- Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander; and
- Some other race

For a complete explanation of the race categories used in Census 2000, see the Census 2000 Brief, *Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin*.[6]

The data collected by Census 2000 on race can be divided into two broad categories: the race *alone* population and the race *in combination* population.

People who responded to the question on race by indicating *only one* race are referred to as the race *alone* population. For example, respondents who reported their race only as American Indian or Alaska Native on the census questionnaire would be included in the American Indian *alone* population.

Individuals who reported *more than one* of the six races are referred to as the race *in combination* population. For example, respondents who reported they were "American Indian ***and*** White" or "American Indian ***and*** Black or African American ***and*** Asian"[7] would be included in the American Indian *in combination* population.

[5] Other changes included terminology and formatting changes, such as spelling out "American" instead of "Amer." for the American Indian or Alaska Native category and adding "Native" to the Hawaiian response category. In the layout of the Census 2000 questionnaire, the seven Asian response categories were alphabetized and grouped together, as were the four Pacific Islander categories after the Native Hawaiian category. The three separate American Indian and Alaska Native identifiers in the 1990 census (i.e., Indian (Amer.), Eskimo, and Aleut) were combined into a single identifier in Census 2000. Also, American Indians and Alaska Natives could report more than one tribe.

[6] *Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin: 2000*, U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Brief, C2KBR/01-1, March 2001, is available on the U.S. Census Bureau's Internet site at *www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html*.

[7] The race *in combination* categories are denoted by quotations around the combinations with the conjunction ***and*** in bold and italicized print to indicate the separate races that comprise the combination.

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Table 1.
American Indian and Alaska Native Population: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf*)

Race	Number	Percent of total population
Total population	**281,412,906**	**100.0**
American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination with one or more other races	4,119,301	1.5
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	2,475,956	0.9
American Indian and Alaska Native in combination with one or more other races	1,643,345	0.6
American Indian and Alaska Native; White	1,082,683	0.4
American Indian and Alaska Native; Black or African American	182,494	0.1
American Indian and Alaska Native; White; Black or African American	112,207	-
American Indian and Alaska Native; Some other race	93,842	-
All other combinations including American Indian and Alaska Native	172,119	0.1
Not American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination with one or more other races	277,293,605	98.5

- Percentage rounds to 0.0.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1.

The maximum number of people reporting American Indian is reflected in the American Indian *alone or in combination* population.

One way to define the American Indian population is to combine those respondents who reported only American Indian with those who reported American Indian as well as one or more other races. This creates the American Indian *alone or in combination* population. Another way to think of the American Indian *alone or in combination* population is the total number of people who identified entirely or partially as American Indian. This group is also described as people who reported American Indian, whether or not they reported any other races.

Census 2000 provides a snapshot of the American Indian population.

Table 1 shows the number and percentage of Census 2000 respondents who reported American Indian alone as well as those who reported American Indian and at least one other race.

Of the total United States population, 2.5 million people, or 0.9 percent, reported only American Indian. An additional 1.6 million people reported American Indian and at least one other race. Within this group, the most common combinations were "American Indian and Alaska Native ***and*** White" (66 percent), followed by "American Indian and Alaska Native ***and*** Black or African American" (11 percent), "American Indian and Alaska Native ***and*** White ***and*** Black or African American" (6.8 percent), and "American Indian and Alaska Native ***and*** Some other race" (5.7 percent). These four combination categories accounted for 90 percent of all American Indians who reported two or more races. Thus 4.1 million people, or 1.5 percent, of the total population, reported American Indian alone or in combination with one or more races.

The American Indian population increased faster than the total population between 1990 and 2000.

Because of the changes made to the question on race for Census 2000, there are at least two ways to present the change in the total number of American Indians in the United States. They include: 1) the difference in the American Indian population between 1990 and 2000 using the race alone concept for 2000 and 2) the difference in the American Indian population between 1990 and 2000 using the race alone or in combination concept for 2000. These comparisons provide a "minimum-maximum" range for the change in the American Indian population between 1990 and 2000.

The 1990 census showed there were nearly 2 million American Indians. Using the American Indian alone population in 2000, this population increased by 516,722, or 26 percent, between 1990 and 2000. If the American Indian alone or in combination population is used, an increase of 2.2 million, or 110 percent, results. Thus, from 1990 to 2000, the range for the increase in the American Indian population was 26 percent to 110 percent. In comparison, the total population grew by 13 percent from 248.7 million in 1990 to 281.4 million in 2000.

THE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN POPULATION

The following discussion of the geographic distribution of the American Indian population focuses on the American Indian alone or in combination population in the text. As the upper bound of the American Indian population, this group includes all respondents who reported American Indian, whether or not

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they reported any other race.[8] Hereafter in the text of this section, the term "American Indian" will be used to refer to those who reported American Indian, whether they reported one race or more than one race. However, in the tables and graphs, data for both the American Indian alone and American Indian alone or in combination populations are shown.

Four out of ten American Indians lived in the West.[9]

According to Census 2000, of all respondents who reported American Indian, 43 percent lived in the West, 31 percent lived in the South, 17 percent lived in the Midwest, and 9 percent lived in the Northeast (see Figure 2).

The West had the largest American Indian population, as well as the highest proportion of American Indians in its total population: 2.8 percent of all respondents in the West and 1.3 percent in the South reported American Indian and Alaska Native, compared with 1.1 percent in the Midwest, and 0.7 percent in the Northeast.

[8] The use of the *alone* or *in combination* population in this section does not imply that it is the preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. In general, either the *alone* population or the *alone or in combination* population can be used, depending on the purpose of the analysis. The Census Bureau uses both approaches.

[9] The West region includes the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. The South region includes the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia, a state equivalent. The Midwest region includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The Northeast region includes the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Over half of all people who reported American Indian lived in just ten states.

The ten states with the largest American Indian populations in 2000, in order, were California, Oklahoma, Arizona, Texas, New Mexico, New York, Washington, North Carolina, Michigan, and Alaska (see Table 2). Florida was the only other state with greater than 100,000 American Indian population. Combined, these 11 states included 62 percent of the total American Indian population, but only 44 percent of the total population. California (627,562) and Oklahoma (391,949) combined included about 25 percent of the total American Indian population.

There were 19 states where the American Indian population exceeded the U.S. proportion of 1.5 percent, led by the western state of Alaska (19 percent), followed by the southern state of Oklahoma (11 percent), and the western state of New Mexico (10 percent). The other 16 states included the western states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Hawaii, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming; the midwestern states of Kansas, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota; and the southern state of North Carolina. No northeastern state had more than 1.5 percent of its population reporting as American Indian. Five states, Alaska, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, and Washington were represented in the top ten states in both number and percent reporting as American Indian.

American Indians were less than 1 percent of the total population in 21 states including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, West Virginia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Kentucky, Iowa, New Hampshire, Indiana, Georgia, Ohio, South Carolina, Mississippi, Tennessee, Connecticut, Florida, Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, New York, and the District of Columbia, a state equivalent. While Texas had the fourth largest American Indian population of all states, it ranked 26th in percent of American Indian among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, with only 1 percent of respondents reporting American Indian. Wyoming had the 44th largest American Indian population, but ranked 8th in percent of the American Indian population among the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The American Indian population was concentrated in counties in the West and Midwest.

American Indians were the majority of the population in 14 counties in the West and 12 counties in the Midwest (see Figure 3). In the West, the counties were in four states: Alaska, Arizona, Montana, and Utah. In the Midwest, the counties were also in four states: South Dakota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, and Nebraska.

Of the 3,141 counties or county equivalents in the United States, 786 counties met or exceeded the U.S. level of 1.5 percent of the total American Indian population, while the proportion reporting American Indian was below the national average in 2,355 counties.

The counties with their proportion reporting American Indian above the national average were located mostly west of the Mississippi River. Within this area, several clusters of counties with high percentages of American Indians were distinctly noticeable. Alaska Natives accounted for over 50 percent of the population in nearly all of the boroughs and census areas (county equivalents) in northern and western Alaska. In the Southwest, American Indians were represented in high percentages (and

Table 2.

American Indian and Alaska Native Population for the United States, Regions, and States, and for Puerto Rico: 1990 and 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf*)

Area	1990			2000						
		American Indian and Alaska Native population			American Indian and Alaska Native alone population		American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination population		American Indian and Alaska Native in combination population	
	Total population	Number	Percent of total population	Total population	Number	Percent of total population	Number	Percent of total population	Number	Percent of American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination population
United States	**248,709,873**	**1,959,234**	**0.8**	**281,421,906**	**2,475,956**	**0.9**	**4,119,301**	**1.5**	**1,643,345**	**39.9**
Region										
Northeast	50,809,229	125,148	0.2	53,594,378	162,558	0.3	374,035	0.7	211,477	56.5
Midwest	59,668,632	337,899	0.6	64,392,776	399,490	0.6	714,792	1.1	315,302	44.1
South	85,445,930	562,731	0.7	100,236,820	725,919	0.7	1,259,230	1.3	533,311	42.4
West	52,786,082	933,456	1.8	63,197,932	1,187,989	1.9	1,771,244	2.8	583,255	32.9
State										
Alabama	4,040,587	16,506	0.4	4,447,100	22,430	0.5	44,449	1.0	22,019	49.5
Alaska	550,043	85,698	15.6	626,932	98,043	15.6	119,241	19.0	21,198	17.8
Arizona	3,665,228	203,527	5.6	5,130,632	255,879	5.0	292,552	5.7	36,673	12.5
Arkansas	2,350,725	12,773	0.5	2,673,400	17,808	0.7	37,002	1.4	19,194	51.9
California	29,760,021	242,164	0.8	33,871,648	333,346	1.0	627,562	1.9	294,216	46.9
Colorado	3,294,394	27,776	0.8	4,301,261	44,241	1.0	79,689	1.9	35,448	44.5
Connecticut	3,287,116	6,654	0.2	3,405,565	9,639	0.3	24,488	0.7	14,849	60.6
Delaware	666,168	2,019	0.3	783,600	2,731	0.3	6,069	0.8	3,338	55.0
District of Columbia	606,900	1,466	0.2	572,059	1,713	0.3	4,775	0.8	3,062	64.1
Florida	12,937,926	36,335	0.3	15,982,378	53,541	0.3	117,880	0.7	64,339	54.6
Georgia	6,478,216	13,348	0.2	8,186,453	21,737	0.3	53,197	0.6	31,460	59.1
Hawaii	1,108,229	5,099	0.5	1,211,537	3,535	0.3	24,882	2.1	21,347	85.8
Idaho	1,006,749	13,780	1.4	1,293,953	17,645	1.4	27,237	2.1	9,592	35.2
Illinois	11,430,602	21,836	0.2	12,419,293	31,006	0.2	73,161	0.6	42,155	57.6
Indiana	5,544,159	12,720	0.2	6,080,485	15,815	0.3	39,263	0.6	23,448	59.7
Iowa	2,776,755	7,349	0.3	2,926,324	8,989	0.3	18,246	0.6	9,257	50.7
Kansas	2,477,574	21,965	0.9	2,688,418	24,936	0.9	47,363	1.8	22,427	47.4
Kentucky	3,685,296	5,769	0.2	4,041,769	8,616	0.2	24,552	0.6	15,936	64.9
Louisiana	4,219,973	18,541	0.4	4,468,976	25,477	0.6	42,878	1.0	17,401	40.6
Maine	1,227,928	5,998	0.5	1,274,923	7,098	0.6	13,156	1.0	6,058	46.0
Maryland	4,781,468	12,972	0.3	5,296,486	15,423	0.3	39,437	0.7	24,014	60.9
Massachusetts	6,016,425	12,241	0.2	6,349,097	15,015	0.2	38,050	0.6	23,035	60.5
Michigan	9,295,297	55,638	0.6	9,938,444	58,479	0.6	124,412	1.3	65,933	53.0
Minnesota	4,375,099	49,909	1.1	4,919,479	54,967	1.1	81,074	1.6	26,107	32.2
Mississippi	2,573,216	8,525	0.3	2,844,658	11,652	0.4	19,555	0.7	7,903	40.4
Missouri	5,117,073	19,835	0.4	5,595,211	25,076	0.4	60,099	1.1	35,023	58.3
Montana	799,065	47,679	6.0	902,195	56,068	6.2	66,320	7.4	10,252	15.5
Nebraska	1,578,385	12,410	0.8	1,711,263	14,896	0.9	22,204	1.3	7,308	32.9
Nevada	1,201,833	19,637	1.6	1,998,257	26,420	1.3	42,222	2.1	15,802	37.4
New Hampshire	1,109,252	2,134	0.2	1,235,786	2,964	0.2	7,885	0.6	4,921	62.4
New Jersey	7,730,188	14,970	0.2	8,414,350	19,492	0.2	49,104	0.6	29,612	60.3
New Mexico	1,515,069	134,355	8.9	1,819,046	173,483	9.5	191,475	10.5	17,992	9.4
New York	17,990,455	62,651	0.3	18,976,457	82,461	0.4	171,581	0.9	89,120	51.9
North Carolina	6,628,637	80,155	1.2	8,049,313	99,551	1.2	131,736	1.6	32,185	24.4
North Dakota	638,800	25,917	4.1	642,200	31,329	4.9	35,228	5.5	3,899	11.1
Ohio	10,847,115	20,358	0.2	11,353,140	24,486	0.2	76,075	0.7	51,589	67.8
Oklahoma	3,145,585	252,420	8.0	3,450,654	273,230	7.9	391,949	11.4	118,719	30.3
Oregon	2,842,321	38,496	1.4	3,421,399	45,211	1.3	85,667	2.5	40,456	47.2
Pennsylvania	11,881,643	14,733	0.1	12,281,054	18,348	0.1	52,650	0.4	34,302	65.2
Rhode Island	1,003,464	4,071	0.4	1,048,319	5,121	0.5	10,725	1.0	5,604	52.3
South Carolina	3,486,703	8,246	0.2	4,012,012	13,718	0.3	27,456	0.7	13,738	50.0
South Dakota	696,004	50,575	7.3	754,844	62,283	8.3	68,281	9.0	5,998	8.8
Tennessee	4,877,185	10,039	0.2	5,689,283	15,152	0.3	39,188	0.7	24,036	61.3
Texas	16,986,510	65,877	0.4	20,851,820	118,362	0.6	215,599	1.0	97,237	45.1
Utah	1,722,850	24,283	1.4	2,233,169	29,684	1.3	40,445	1.8	10,761	26.6
Vermont	562,758	1,696	0.3	608,827	2,420	0.4	6,396	1.1	3,976	62.2
Virginia	6,187,358	15,282	0.2	7,078,515	21,172	0.3	52,864	0.7	31,692	60.0
Washington	4,866,692	81,483	1.7	5,894,121	93,301	1.6	158,940	2.7	65,639	41.3
West Virginia	1,793,477	2,458	0.1	1,808,344	3,606	0.2	10,644	0.6	7,038	66.1
Wisconsin	4,891,769	39,387	0.8	5,363,675	47,228	0.9	69,386	1.3	22,158	31.9
Wyoming	453,588	9,479	2.1	493,782	11,133	2.3	15,012	3.0	3,879	25.8
Puerto Rico	**3,522,037**	**(X)**	**(X)**	**3,808,610**	**13,336**	**0.4**	**26,871**	**0.7**	**13,535**	**50.4**

X Not applicable.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1; 1990 Census of Population, *General Population Characteristics (1990 CP-1)*.

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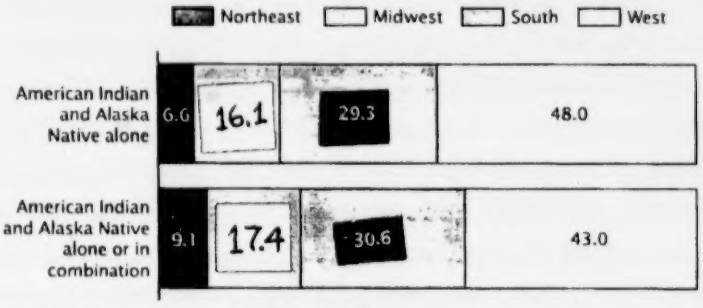
also in large numbers) in the counties in the Four Corners area of Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado (where the boundaries of these four states meet). In the Great Plains, American Indians were concentrated in a cluster of counties in central and western South Dakota, southeastern Montana, and in several counties along the U.S.-Canadian border in Montana and North Dakota. In the southern Plains, American Indians accounted for relatively high percentages of the population in a cluster of counties in eastern Oklahoma. American Indians accounted for more than the U.S. level of 1.5 percent in all but one county (Harper County) in Oklahoma.

East of the Mississippi, counties in which American Indians were represented in percentages higher than the U.S. level of 1.5 percent were scattered throughout the South, Northeast, and upper Midwest. Two clusters of counties in North Carolina — one in the extreme southwest of the state and the other in the southeast — were evident; each cluster was anchored by a county in which American Indians accounted for over 25 percent of the population. Elsewhere in the South, groups of counties in which American Indians were represented at greater than the U.S. proportion were found in central Louisiana, portions of the Gulf Coast, northern Alabama, and in eastern Virginia.

In the Northeast, counties meeting or exceeding the national proportion of American Indians tended to be nonmetropolitan and along the U.S. and Canadian border of New York, Vermont, and Maine, although concentrations were found in the New York city area, metropolitan Rhode Island and Connecticut, and in western New York. In the Midwest, counties with high percentages of American Indians were located primarily across northern Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. In general, counties throughout most of the lower Midwest, upper South, and Northeast were distinguished by very low percentages of American Indians.

Figure 2.
Percent Distribution of the American Indian and Alaska Native Population by Region: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf*)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1.

The places with the largest American Indian populations were New York and Los Angeles.

Census 2000 showed that, of all places in the United States with 100,000 or more population,[10] New York and Los Angeles had the largest American Indian populations with 87,241 and 53,092, respectively (see Table 3). The next eight places with the largest American Indian populations had between 15,743 and 35,093 American Indians. Five of the top ten places — Los Angeles, Phoenix, San Diego, Anchorage, and Albuquerque — were in the West.

The ten largest places for American Indians together accounted for 8.2 percent of the total U.S. American Indian population. New York and Los Angeles accounted for 3.4 percent of the total American Indian population (see Table 3). Of the ten largest places in the United States, Phoenix (2.7 percent) had the largest proportion of American Indians, followed by Los Angeles (1.4 percent), and San Diego and San Antonio, each with 1.3 percent.

Among places of 100,000 or more population, the highest proportion of American Indians was in Anchorage (10 percent) as shown in Figure 4. Tulsa was the second highest. Six of the top ten places with the highest proportion of American Indians were in the West, with two each in the Midwest and South.

ADDITIONAL FINDINGS ON THE AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE POPULATION

What proportion of American Indians and Alaska Natives reported a tribe?

In Census 2000, people who identified themselves as American Indian

[10] Census 2000 showed 245 places in the United States with 100,000 or more population. They included 238 incorporated places (including 4 city-county consolidations) and 7 census designated places that are not legally incorporated. For a list of these places by state, see *www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/phc-t6.html*.

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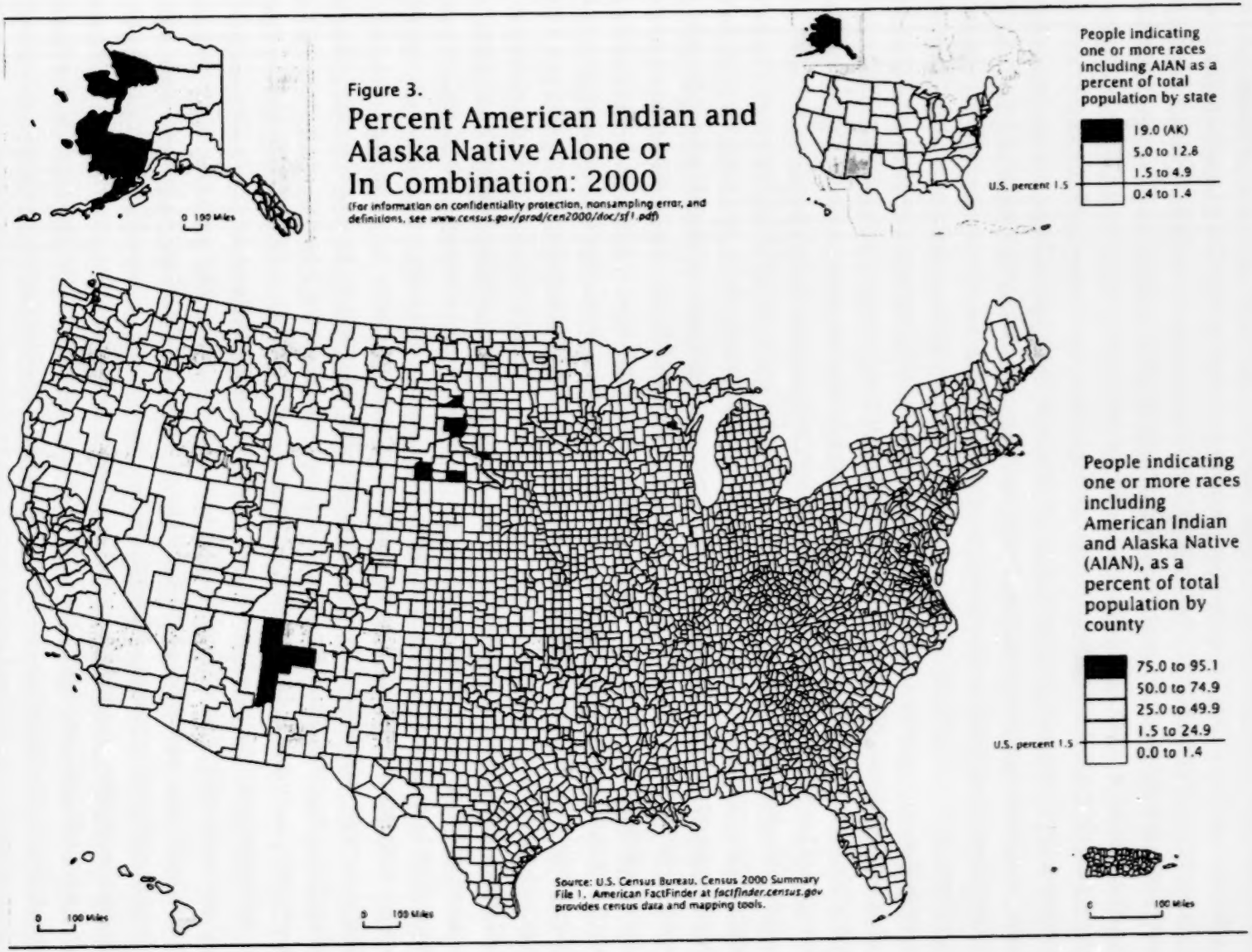
0 100 Miles
People indicating one or more races including AIAN as a percent of total population by state
19.0 (AK)
5.0 to 12.8
1.5 to 4.9
0.4 to 1.4
U.S. percent 1.5
People indicating one or more races including American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN), as a percent of total population by county
75.0 to 95.1
50.0 to 74.9
25.0 to 49.9
1.5 to 24.9
0.0 to 1.4
U.S. percent 1.5
0 100 Miles
0 100 Miles
0 100 Miles

Figure 3.
Percent American Indian and Alaska Native Alone or In Combination: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf*)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1. American FactFinder at *factfinder.census.gov* provides census data and mapping tools.

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Table 3.
Ten Largest Places in Total Population and in American Indian and Alaska Native Population: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)*

Place	Total population		American Indian and Alaska Native alone		American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination		Percent of total population	
	Rank	Number	Rank	Number	Rank	Number	American Indian and Alaska Native alone	American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination
New York, NY	1	8,008,278	1	41,289	1	87,241	0.5	1.1
Los Angeles, CA	2	3,694,820	2	29,412	2	53,092	0.8	1.4
Chicago, IL	3	2,896,016	9	10,290	8	20,898	0.4	0.7
Houston, TX	4	1,953,631	11	8,568	10	15,743	0.4	0.8
Philadelphia, PA	5	1,517,550	24	4,073	21	10,835	0.3	0.7
Phoenix, AZ	6	1,321,045	3	26,696	3	35,093	2.0	2.7
San Diego, CA	7	1,223,400	13	7,543	9	16,178	0.6	1.3
Dallas, TX	8	1,188,580	18	6,472	18	11,334	0.5	1.0
San Antonio, TX	9	1,144,646	10	9,584	12	15,224	0.8	1.3
Detroit, MI	10	951,270	40	3,140	25	8,907	0.3	0.9
Oklahoma, OK	29	506,132	6	17,743	5	29,001	3.5	5.7
Tucson, AZ	30	486,699	8	11,038	11	15,358	2.3	3.2
Albuquerque, NM	35	448,607	7	17,444	7	22,047	3.9	4.9
Tulsa, OK	43	393,049	5	18,551	4	30,227	4.7	7.7
Anchorage, AK	65	260,283	4	18,941	6	26,995	7.3	10.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1.

or Alaska Native on the questionnaire were asked to report their enrolled or principal tribe. Additionally, respondents could report one or more tribes (see Table 4). Among respondents who reported as American Indian, 79 percent, or 2.0 million people, specified a tribe. For those who reported American Indian in any combination, 67 percent, or 1.1 million people, reported a tribe. For all people reporting American Indian either alone or in any combination, 74 percent, or 3.1 million people, identified a tribe.

Which American Indian tribal groupings were the largest?

According to Census 2000, the American Indian tribal groupings with 100,000 or more people or responses were Cherokee, Navajo, Latin American Indian,[11] Choctaw, Sioux, and Chippewa (see Figure 5 and Table 5).[12] These six tribal groups accounted for 40 percent of all respondents who reported a single grouping or race. Of all American Indian tribal groupings in any combination, these six tribal groups accounted for 42 percent of all responses. There were 281,069 respondents who reported Cherokee alone and an additional 448,464 who reported Cherokee with at least one other race or American Indian tribal grouping. A total of 729,533 people reported Cherokee alone or in combination with one or more other race or American Indian tribal groupings.

Navajo and Latin American were the next two largest specified American Indian tribal groupings. There were 269,202 people who reported Navajo alone and an additional 28,995 people who reported Navajo in combination with one or more other races or American tribal groupings. This gives a total of 298,197 people who reported Navajo alone or in combination with at least one other race or American Indian tribal groupings. There were 104,354 people who reported only Latin American Indian and an additional 76,586 who reported Latin American in combination with one or more other races or American Indian tribal groupings. A total of 180,940 people reported Latin American Indian alone or in combination with at least one other race or American Indian tribal groupings.

Which Alaska Native tribal groupings were the largest?

In 2000, Eskimo was the largest Alaska Native tribal grouping alone or in any combination, followed by Tlingit-Haida, Alaska Athabascan, and Aleut. These four tribal groupings combined accounted for 3.6 percent of all American Indian

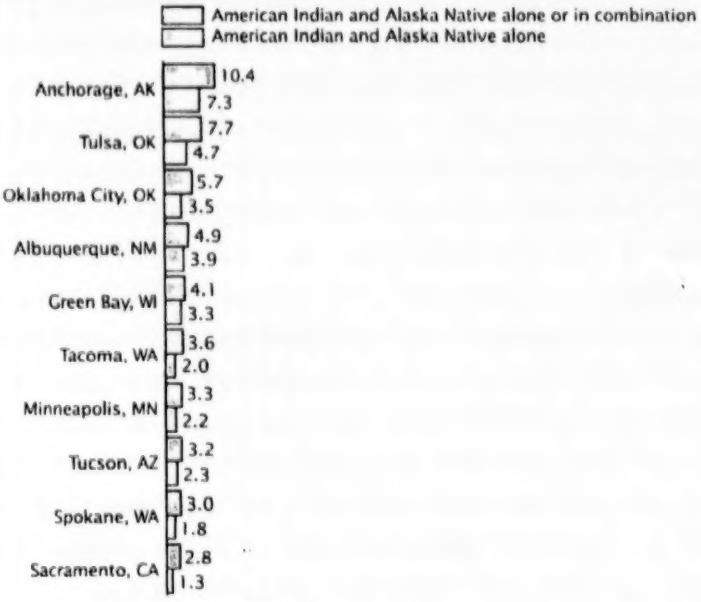
[11] In 1997, the Office of Management and Budget definition of American Indian or Alaska Native included the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America).

[12] Table 5 contains all American Indian and Alaska Native tribal groupings that contained at least 7,000 people according to the 1990 census. Additional information on individual tribes is forthcoming.

Figure 4.

Ten Places of 100,000 or More Population With the Highest Percentage of American Indians and Alaska Natives: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf*)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1.

and Alaska Native tribal responses alone and 2.7 percent alone or in any combination (see Figure 6 and Table 5).

There were 45,919 respondents who reported Eskimo alone and an additional 8,842 who reported Eskimo with at least one other race or American Indian or Alaska Native tribal grouping. A total of 54,761 people reported Eskimo alone or in combination with one or more other races or American Indian or Alaska Native tribal groupings.

Tlingit-Haida, Alaska Athabascan, and Aleut were the next three largest specified Alaska Native tribal groupings. There were 14,825 people who reported Tlingit-Haida alone and an additional 7,540 who reported Tlingit-Haida with at least one other race or American Indian or Alaska Native tribal groupings. A total of 22,365 people reported Tlingit-Haida alone or in combination with one or more other races or American Indian or Alaska Native tribal groupings.

There were 14,520 people who reported only Alaska Athabascan and an additional 4,318 people who reported Alaska Athabascan with one or more other races or American Indian or Alaska Native tribal groupings. A total of 18,838 people reported Alaska Athabascan alone or in combination with at least one or more other races or American Indian or Alaska Native tribal groupings.

Also, there were 11,941 people who reported only Aleut and an additional 5,037 people who reported Aleut with one or more other races or American Indian or Alaska Native tribal groupings. A total of 16,978 people reported Aleut alone or in combination with at least one or more other races or American Indian or Alaska Native tribal groupings.

What proportion of American Indians and Alaska Natives reported more than one tribal grouping?

The proportion of respondents reporting a tribe with at least one other race or American Indian tribal grouping varied among the ten largest American Indian tribal groupings (see Table 5). Of all the respondents who reported more than one race or American Indian tribal grouping, the Blackfeet tribal grouping had the highest proportion, with 68 percent. The next two tribal groupings with the highest proportion of respondents reporting at least one other race or American Indian tribal grouping were Cherokee (62 percent) and Choctaw (45 percent). Of the ten largest American Indian tribal groupings, the Navajo had the lowest proportion (9.7 percent) reporting more than one race or American Indian tribal grouping, followed by Pueblo (19.6 percent).

Among the largest Alaska Native tribal groupings, the highest proportion of all respondents who reported more than one race or American Indian or Alaska Native tribal groupings was the Tlingit-Haida with 34 percent. The other tribal groupings with respondents reporting at least one other race or American Indian or Alaska Native tribal grouping were Aleut (30 percent) and Alaska Athabascan (23 percent). The Eskimo had the lowest proportion of respondents (16 percent) reporting more than one race or American Indian tribal grouping.

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ABOUT CENSUS 2000

Why did Census 2000 ask the question on race?

The Census Bureau collects data on race to fulfill a variety of legislative and program requirements. Data on race are used in the legislative redistricting process carried out by the states and in monitoring local jurisdictions' compliance with the Voting Rights Act. These data are also essential for evaluating federal programs that promote equal access to employment, education, and housing and for assessing racial disparities in health and exposure to environmental risks. More broadly, data on race are critical for research that underlies many policy decisions at all levels of government.

How do data from the question on race benefit me, my family, and my community?

All levels of government need information on race to implement and evaluate programs or enforce laws. Examples include: the Native American Programs Act, the Equal Employment Opportunity Act, the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act, the Public Health Act, the Healthcare Improvement Act, the Job Partnership Training Act, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, the Fair Housing Act, and the Census Redistricting Data Program.

Both public and private organizations use race information to find areas where groups may need special services and to plan and implement education, housing, health, and other programs that address these needs. For example, a school system might use this information to design cultural activities that reflect the diversity in their community. Or a business could use it to select the mix of merchandise it will sell in a new store. Census information also helps identify areas where residents might need services of particular importance to certain racial or ethnic groups, such as screening for hypertension or diabetes.

Table 4.
Specified Tribe Reported by American Indians and Alaska Natives: 2000

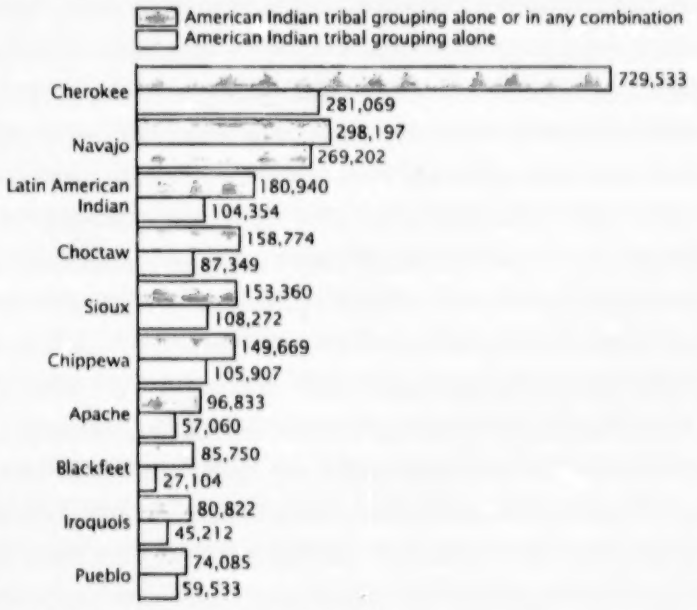
(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf*)

Whether or not tribe specified	American Indian and Alaska Native					
	Total		Alone		In combination	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	**4,119,301**	**100.0**	**2,475,956**	**100.0**	**1,643,345**	**100.0**
Tribe specified	3,062,844	74.4	1,963,996	79.3	1,098,848	66.9
Tribe not specified	1,056,457	25.6	511,960	20.7	544,497	33.1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1.

Figure 5.
Ten Largest American Indian Tribal Groupings: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf*)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on race in the United States, visit the U.S. Census Bureau's Internet site at *www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/race.html*.

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Table 5.
American Indian and Alaska Native Population by Selected Tribal Grouping: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf*)

Tribal grouping	American and Alaska Native alone		American Indian and Alaska Native in combination with one or more races		American Indian and Alaska Native tribal grouping alone or in any combination[1]
	One tribal grouping reported	More than one tribal grouping reported[1]	One tribal grouping reported	More than one tribal grouping reported[1]	
Total	**2,423,531**	**52,425**	**1,585,396**	**57,949**	**4,119,301**
Apache	57,060	7,917	24,947	6,909	95,833
Blackfeet	27,104	4,358	41,389	12,899	85,750
Cherokee	281,069	18,793	390,902	38,769	729,533
Cheyenne	11,191	1,365	4,655	993	18,204
Chickasaw	20,887	3,014	12,025	2,425	38,351
Chippewa	105,907	2,730	38,635	2,397	149,669
Choctaw	87,349	9,552	50,123	11,750	158,774
Colville	7,833	193	1,308	59	9,393
Comanche	10,120	1,568	6,120	1,568	19,376
Cree	2,488	724	3,577	945	7,734
Creek	40,223	5,495	21,652	3,940	71,310
Crow	9,117	574	2,812	891	13,394
Delaware	8,304	602	6,866	569	16,341
Houma	6,798	79	1,794	42	8,713
Iroquois	45,212	2,318	29,763	3,529	80,822
Kiowa	8,559	1,130	2,119	434	12,242
Latin American Indian	104,354	1,850	73,042	1,694	180,940
Lumbee	51,913	642	4,934	379	57,868
Menominee	7,883	258	1,551	148	9,840
Navajo	269,202	6,789	19,491	2,715	298,197
Osage	7,658	1,354	5,491	1,394	15,897
Ottawa	6,432	623	3,174	448	10,677
Paiute	9,705	1,163	2,315	349	13,532
Pima	8,519	999	1,741	234	11,493
Potawatomi	15,817	592	8,602	584	25,595
Pueblo	59,533	3,527	9,943	1,082	74,085
Puget Sound Salish	11,034	226	3,212	159	14,631
Seminole	12,431	2,982	9,505	2,513	27,431
Shoshone	7,739	714	3,039	534	12,026
Sioux	108,272	4,794	35,179	5,115	153,360
Tohono O'odham	17,466	714	1,748	159	20,087
Ute	7,309	715	1,944	417	10,385
Yakama	8,481	561	1,619	190	10,851
Yaqui	15,224	1,245	5,184	759	22,412
Yuman	7,295	526	1,051	104	8,976
Other specified American Indian tribes	240,521	9,468	100,346	7,323	357,658
American Indian tribe, not specified[2]	109,644	57	86,173	28	195,902
Alaska Athabascan	14,520	815	3,218	285	18,838
Aleut	11,941	832	3,850	355	16,978
Eskimo	45,919	1,418	6,919	505	54,761
Tlingit-Haida	14,825	1,059	6,047	434	22,365
Other specified Alaska Native tribes	2,552	435	841	145	3,973
Alaska Native tribe, not specified[2]	6,161	370	2,053	118	8,702
American Indian or Alaska Native tribes, not specified[3]	511,960	(X)	544,497	(X)	1,056,457

X Not applicable.

[1]The numbers by American Indian and Alaska Native tribal grouping do not add to the total population. This is because the American Indian and Alaska Native tribal groupings are tallies of the number of American Indian and Alaska Native **responses** rather than the number of American Indian and Alaska Native **respondents.** Respondents reporting several American Indian and Alaska Native tribes are counted several times. For example, a respondent reporting "Apache and Blackfeet" would be included in the Apache as well as Blackfeet numbers.

[2]Includes respondents who checked the "American Indian or Alaska Native" response category on the census questionnaire or wrote in a tribe not specified in the American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal Detailed Classification List for Census 2000.

[3]Includes respondents who checked the "American Indian or Alaska Native" response category on the census questionnaire or wrote in the generic term "American Indian" or "Alaska Native," or tribal entries not elsewhere classified.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, special tabulations.

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Race data from Census 2000 Summary File 1 were released on a state-by-state basis during the summer of 2001, including data for selected American and Alaska Native tribal groupings.

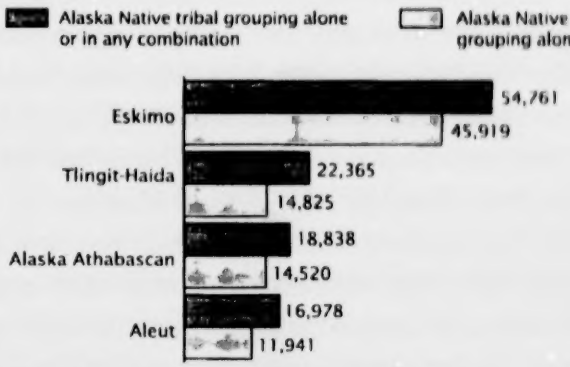
The Census 2000 Summary File 1 data are available on the Internet via *factfinder.census.gov* and for purchase on CD-ROM and on DVD.

For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, also see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf* or contact our Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636).

For more information on specific races in the United States, go to *www.census.gov* and click on "Minority Links." This Web page includes information about Census 2000 and provides links to reports based on past censuses and surveys focusing on the social and economic characteristics of the Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander populations.

Figure 6.
Largest Alaska Native Tribal Groupings: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf*)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1.

Information on other population and housing topics is presented in the Census 2000 Brief series, located on the U.S. Census Bureau's Web site at *www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html*. This series presents information on race, Hispanic origin, age, sex, household type, housing tenure, and other social, economic, and housing characteristics.

For more information about Census 2000, including data products, call our Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636), or e-mail *webmaster@census.gov*.

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